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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

Local



GRAND OPENING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WDI Corp. officials and ranking Commonwealth government executives led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, third from right, cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in Garapan Saturday night. From left are Darren Talai, vice president of operations; Ken Myres, vice president of Tony Roma's franchise division; Yoji Shimizu, WDI Corp. chairman of the board; Keiko Honda, Capricciosa founder; Robert H. Jones, Triple J and WDI Saipan president; Babauta; Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente; and Mitsuru Kuroda, president of WDI International.

Airport revenue up by 9 percent at \$2.9M

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The fiscal year's first quarter indicators show positive growth in the tourist industry, boosting optimism within the Commonwealth Ports Authority that the tourism industry will rebound this year.

CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the ports

authority saw a slight jump in enplanement and deplanement activities at the Saipan International Airport after two years of stagnant growth.

"We are upbeat that traffic at the Saipan International Airport would rebound this year. This gives us extra room to meet our obligations," Salas said in an interview.

Based on the Airport Statistical Highlights released by the CPA, enplanement activities for the first quarter of fiscal year 2004 posted a 5-percent increase compared with last year's 49,791 passengers. Traffic haul at the Saipan Airport also increased by 53 percent compared with the first quarter of FY01.

Also, the airport division



Salas

reported that deplanement at the SIA grew by 5 percent during the period under review compared

with 2003, and 53 percent compared with FY01's first quarter.

According to Salas, landings at the Saipan airport during the first quarter of FY04 also increased by 16 percent compared with 2003's first quarter but declined by 1 percent when compared with the first quarter of FY01.

As a result, the executive director said, airport revenues for the first quarter increased by 9 percent during the first quarter of the fiscal year and 7 percent during compared with the first quarter of FY01.

Records show that Saipan International Airport generated \$2,944,480 in revenue during the first quarter of FY04 compared with \$2,743,498 and \$2,022,143 of the first quarter of fiscal years 2003 and 2001, respectively.

"We are confident that tourist traffic this fiscal year would be better than the two prior years; hopefully, nothing major would happen that would impact again on the tourism industry," said Salas.

From 2001 to 2003, the tourism industry had tried to ward off the negative impacts of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, the war in Iraq, and the continued effects of the 9/11 terror attacks.

Despite these early positive indicators, the CPA disclosed that massive restructuring of priorities would still be undertaken to ensure that the ports authority meets its obligations and proceed with improvement projects at the three CNMI airports.



Healthy living presentations set

Did you know that diabetes is a dangerous disease that can cause death? Are you suffering from diabetes or do you want to prevent yourself and your family from getting diabetes?

We care for your health. Please come and join us on Sunday, Feb. 8, 9am, at the PIC Napu Room for presentations on living healthy.

The CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and NMC-CREES will be providing:

- Free diabetes screening
- Free education for a healthier diet
- Free education for diabetes control
- A Certificate of Participation from the Department of Public Health

This event is sponsored and organized by the Bangladesh Society of the CNMI.

Sinapalo Elementary School PTA meeting

The monthly PTA meeting at Sinapalo Elementary School will be on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 5:30pm.

All parent and legal guardians whose children go to Sinapalo Elementary are invited to attend this meeting. For more information, contact school principal Carmen H. Atalig at 532-9521.

Victim hotline volunteers sought

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help our community? Are you interested in issues such as domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, rape, or suicide?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you may be the right kind of person to become a Victim Hotline Volunteer. The Victim Hotline is a 24/7 telephone crisis intervention hotline that provides access to information, referral, and a listening ear to victims of crimes in the Northern Marianas.

Interested individuals may contact Velma Del Rosario at 234-5100 to reserve slots as they are limited to only 30 individuals.

Military ID cardholders survey on

The Office of Military/Veterans Affairs is conducting a survey on all military ID cardholders, whose ID cards are expiring within the next six months and are in need of assistance. Please call 664-2650 for more information. There is a big change in obtaining and renewing procedures.

Public library to close periodically

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is having new air conditioning units installed and would like to inform the public that the library will be closing periodically until the work is completed. The first closure was yesterday. Additional closing dates will follow.

"We will make every effort to inform the public ahead of time, however, we encourage the public to call 235-7322/3 before visiting the library or for more information on closing dates. We apologize for any inconvenience as work is being done to improve the library facility," the library administration said in a media statement.

Veterans of Saipan, Tinian battles sought

Veterans of the World War II battles of Saipan and Tinian will be invited to the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Saipan and Tinian to be held June 12-16, 2004 on Saipan.

The Committee for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of WWII is soliciting help from newspapers, churches, state and local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans Associations, non-profit organizations, and family members to help identify veterans to be recognized.

Anyone who knows a veteran involved in these battles should send their name and contact information to Jessica Jordan at marianas04-anniversary@yahoo.com, or call (670) 234-7212; fax: (670) 234-7211, or mail: PMB 409 Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950.

ASVAB examination set

Attention to individuals 17-34 years old who want to join the U.S. Army.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico will be conducting the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery examination on Feb. 27-28.

On Feb. 27, the exam will be conducted at 4:30pm. The next day, Feb. 28, the exam will be held at 12:30pm.

"Please sign in early for the test at the US Army Reserve Center, Puerto Rico 'The Base' or call 322-6680 and ask for SSG Roberts or Mr. Quitugua," the statement said.

For more information, call SFC Abadam or SGT Benavente collect at (671) 477-7330/7666.

WDI-JVA

PBDC pursuing Midway airport, defense issues

The Pacific Basin Development Council is working with the Federal Aviation Administration in the deployment of at least a partial or "bare-boned" staffing to open up the Midway airport for emergency landings, Gov. Juan N. Babauta reported.

Babauta, the PBDC president, cited the organization's steadfast efforts to lobby for the reopening of the Midway airport as among the group's main agenda, in addition to homeland security and other regional issues.

"It [airport] was closed for a

while basically because of costs and because of hazards with respect to the birds there because the birds get into the engine of the aircraft. And basically just manning the whole place. There's hardly anybody there," explained Babauta.

The Midway Islands is described as an atoll in the northwestern part of the Hawaiian archipelago.

"I know that this is not a direct benefit [to the CNMI] but by the efforts of the PBDC, having Midway open as an emergency landing airport is a

PBDC effort...with the closure of Midway, we won't be able to land. If a commercial airplane needs to land, it won't be able to land anywhere and so it will crash in the ocean. And we have people aboard the plane, from the CNMI or Guam, obviously we're going to lose them," said Babauta.

Further, the chief executive noted that with the return of Hawaii as PBDC member, the organization can further pursue defense issues since Hawaii continues to play a central role in the defense posture of the Pacific.

"We don't necessarily bring home the bacon or money to the CNMI or to Guam per se but whatever Hawaii does also benefits us in a way that we can move the coast guard to our area for greater military presence, the monitoring of our EEZ and things like that," said Babauta.

The PBDC chief also disclosed plans to woo the state of Alaska as a fifth member, saying that the state's membership would only boost the group's standing as a regional organization.

Hawaii rejoined the group after about seven years of absence.

Babauta was recently in Ha-



Babauta.

waii to meet with Gov. Linda Lingle and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono to discuss PBDC and governing issues.

He touted the new partnership with Hawaii as one that would give the group a wider range of resources to push for issues that will benefit the whole region.

PBDC is in the meantime gearing up for its next meeting this February in Washington D.C. where homeland security issues, among others, will be a part of the agenda.

The group was established by the governors of American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii and CNMI in 1980 to address regional economic and social concerns. It has been based in Honolulu even during the years when Hawaii dropped out of it. *(Marian A. Maraya)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STRESSING A POINT

Richard Pierce, right, makes a point during Wednesday's meeting between the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and representatives from various government agencies. With him are from left, Dave Hodges and Brian Bearden of the Division of Environmental Quality, Manny Pangelinan, of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and DEQ Deputy Director Pete Palacios.

Mificpa to hold US CPA review classes

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants is offering U.S. CPA review classes for Filipino accountants who are aspiring to be future U.S. CPAs.

Orientation will be held at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Philippine Consulate on Feb. 3, at 7pm. The orientation will discuss the implementation of the computer-based format of examination.

Under the computer-based format, examination will be

offered up to six days a week, during two out of every three months throughout the year. The first four testing windows are during the months of April-May, July-August, October-November, January-February.

The revised examination has four sections: Auditing and Attestation, Financial Accounting and Reporting, Regulation, and Business Environment and Concepts. The revised examination incorporates increased emphasis on information tech-

nology and general business knowledge with a broadened scope in the audit area. For more information, log on to www.cpa-exam.org.

Mificpa continues its commitment to help Filipino accountants achieve professional development. It invites Filipino accountants to join and be a member of the group for an annual membership fee of \$15. For inquiries, call Malou at 234-9696/234-2628 or Ia at 322-4501.

Mobil seeks OK to begin pipeline project on Tinian

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. has asked the Division of Environmental Quality to extend the expiration of a permit in connection with the company's Tinian pipeline project.

DEQ reportedly issued Mobil a commercial earthmoving and erosion control permit on Dec. 30, 2002, which expired exactly a year later.

"Due to issues beyond our control, the actual work was not able to proceed during the permitted period of 12 months," said Ivan C. Quinata, Mobil's engineering manager.

Mobil's consultant, Winzler & Kelly, also asked the Coastal Resources Management Office to allow the resumption of construction work. *(John Ravelo)*

Cab driver loses bag to burglars

Authorities are investigating a theft and burglary incident at the Coral Ocean Point after a taxi driver filed a formal complaint against unknown suspects who broke into his vehicle Tuesday afternoon.

DPS spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas, Jr. said they received complaint around 12:34pm on January 27, wherein a taxi driver parked his car at the Coral Ocean Point to use a restroom and returned to a burglarized vehicle.

According to the complainant, he made a stop at the Coral Ocean Point Hotel beachside and parked his vehicle—a 2001 Toyota Echo with license plate TAXI1080—near the restroom area. He then went down to the beachside to fetch his wife, who would be following him at the COP. When he went back to the vehicle to get his cigarette, however, he found his car burglarized.

The complainant added that a black pouch bag containing

a bank book, his passport and \$200 cash was missing. The victim immediately called for police assistance. Responding law enforcers investigated the incident and checked on adjoining premises to question witnesses.


Blas urged the community or any individuals who may have information about the incident to call the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9042 or the NMI Crime Stoppers tips line at 234-7272. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.






















KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

| CITY | FORECAST | HIGH | LOW |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|  Auckland | Cloudy | 61F (16C) | 49F (9C) |
|  Beijing | Sunny | 44F (7C) | 26F (-3C) |
|  Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 74F (23C) | 61F (16C) |
|  Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 86F (30C) | 72F (22C) |
|  London, England | Cloudy | 56F (13C) | 45F (7C) |
|  Los Angeles | Cloudy | 69F (21C) | 51F (11C) |
|  Manila | Cloudy | 88F (31C) | 71F (22C) |
|  Melbourne | Sunny | 73F (23C) | 54F (12C) |
|  Miami | Partly Cloudy | 84F (29C) | 75F (24C) |
|  New York, NY | Cloudy | 52F (11C) | 48F (9C) |
|  Osaka | Rain | 54F (12C) | 46F (8C) |
|  Paris | Cloudy | 53F (12C) | 41F (5C) |
|  Pusan | Rain | 58F (14C) | 43F (6C) |
|  Rome | Partly Cloudy | 55F (13C) | 39F (4C) |
|  Salem, Oregon | Rain | 54F (12C) | 38F (3C) |
|  San Francisco | Sunny | 64F (18C) | 47F (5C) |
|  Seoul | Rain | 52F (11C) | 45F (7C) |
|  Tokyo | Rain | 55F (13C) | 49F (9C) |
|  Washington, DC | Cloudy | 60F (16C) | 48F (9C) |

Guerrero: Yangetmai has the right to question Teacher Rep poll result

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero commented yesterday that Marianas High School teacher James Yangetmai has the prerogative to question the results of the recently concluded Teacher Representative election, which the Association of Commonwealth Teacher candidate lost to Kagman High School teacher



Guerrero

Ambrose Bennett. “Anyone [who] is running can always question [the election result]. I think they [administration] need to ensure whether he has valid points or not. If it’s not valid, then at least you settle the issue. And there’s no cloud hanging over the whole process. “It’s a democratic process. People who lose sometimes ask or think there are discrepancies or procedures [that were] not followed. If that is the case then the people that are conducting the election needs to refute them and say that this is what we did, and this the process and the procedures,” said the official, who recently lost the BOE chairmanship to Roman Benavente. Yangetmai, who lagged behind Bennett by 16 votes in Monday’s poll, hinted of possible vote manipulation, casting

doubts on the election’s credibility. ACT claimed the process was not valid and fair, as it allegedly lacked transparency. The group raised the absence of its own representative at the polling center. “I guess in any election, there’s a need to be clear on the process and procedures. If the one who lost is questioning the validity of the election then perhaps they need to revisit [the issue] and make sure there’s no doubt that what they certified is true and correct. The process has to be followed and it has to be transparent so nobody can question it,” insisted Guerrero, who called on House legislators yesterday. The BOE member representing Saipan was also curious over the dismal turnout in Monday’s election.

“When you only have 28 percent [of] eligible voters voting, that’s an extremely low turnout. With this kind of turnout, there’s no clear mandate from the teachers. So it’s questionable. One can raise the question why you don’t have many who voted? There’s a lot of questions why,” he asserted. Gov. Juan N. Babauta proclaimed Bennett’s victory on Tuesday, a day after the Teacher Representative poll was held here Monday and simultaneously on Rota and Tinian. The chief executive stressed that teacher representation in the BOE is constitutionally mandated. He said that concerns raised over the selection has prompted his office to hold the election so that all public school teachers in the CNMI could choose a representative that would truly represent them.

Babauta credited the Public School System, the BOE, the

PSS legal counsel, the Attorney General’s Office and the administration for putting together a fair and objective selection process. Of the 500 full-time teachers who were eligible to vote, Babauta confirmed that only 142 teachers or 28 percent cast their votes. He lamented the minimal participation. According to the breakdown, Yangetmai garnered 62 votes while Bennett gained 78 votes. Two ballots were reportedly cast without votes. Babauta explained that only full time teachers were eligible to vote in this election, quoting PSS’ definition of full time teachers as any person who is employed by the Public School System and has the primary responsibility for the education, instruction or provides related services for one or more students. *(Marian A. Maraya)*

Paras signs payment schedule with CHC

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Paras Enterprises president Juan T. Guerrero has signed a payment schedule agreement with the Department of Public Health only last week. Earlier, Paras legal counsel Mark Smith clarified that no agreement had been reached yet as of Jan. 8 as previously agreed by both parties. Guerrero said yesterday that Paras signed the payment schedule only last Jan. 14. On January 16, he said Paras received an additional \$100,000 payment from DPH. Based on the schedule, the department will give another payment of \$80,000 to Paras on Jan. 30 and some \$50,000 on Feb. 13. Guerrero said Paras and DPH continue to negotiate for the \$50,000 billing. “We have submitted our billing for \$50,000. I don’t know why they’re disputing our billing now when in the last six years,

they never did,” said Guerrero. He said Paras submitted \$248,000 billing to DPH as of Jan. 7, 2004. Based on the schedule, the DPH only acknowledged some \$230,000. “There is some flexibility but we’ll still pursue what is really due us,” said Guerrero, adding that the department itself is charging Paras some \$11,000 for outstanding hospital bills. This amount would be assessed against the last payment to Paras. “We’ll settle that but I’m not really sure how much we owe them so we have to discuss that,” he said. Guerrero also clarified that he has not signed any expiration transfer agreement with the department, which would “legalize” the transfer of Paras employees to the Commonwealth Health Center. Some authorities, however, said that a consensual transfer agreement with Paras is no longer needed

since its contracts with employees provide that their termination of employment goes with Paras’ contract termination with CHC. Both parties have agreed to finalize their payment schedule in view of the DPH’ shift to direct hiring of nursing staff effective Jan. 1, 2004. Paras and other agencies’ contracts with CHC ended on Dec. 31, 2003 but transfer negotiations dragged along pending the settlement of the government’s debt with the companies and the lack of funded FTEs or positions at the department. On Jan. 2, Finance released \$100,000 each to Paras and Saipan Employment Agency Services as partial payment. The government terminated its contracts with agencies on the belief that direct hiring would result in better delivery of health care and boost employee morale. The direct hiring aims to implement a uniform pay for all nursing staff.

DEQ heightens illegal dumping campaign

The Division of Environmental Quality warned that it would impose a fine on anyone caught illegally dumping trash on the islands. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. urged the public to respect the no littering signs the agency has installed at beach parks and other areas. “We will assess a fine. Our regulations allow us to impose up to \$25,000 per day of violation,” Castro said. The DEQ hopes that the move will deter the public from illegally disposing of trash and household wastes. Castro said trash should be disposed of at the Lower Base

Refuse Transfer Station or the Marpi landfill. “Help us. It’s not just the DEQ’s job to keep Saipan beautiful but it’s also the public’s responsibility,” Castro added. The Environmental Inter-agency Cleanup Operation Team, of which DEQ is a member, and volunteers from non-profit group MOVER recently conducted an emergency cleanup in Garapan’s Makaka beach site, which had deteriorated due to illegal dumping. According to EICOT chairman Benny Pangelinan, people just ignored the DEQ’s no-littering sign at the site. *(John Ravelo)*

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

3 men arrested for alleged assault

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities arrested Monday night three men who have been a subject of intensive investigations by law enforcers since November 2003 when a 43-year-old man lodged a complaint against them.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said Martin F. Borja, 38; Chris W. Taimanglo, 20; and William M. Faisao, 19, were arrested based on the arrest warrants issued against them by Judge Juan Lizama.

Blas said COPPS officers Jesse Seman and Sandy Hambros arrested the three suspects in connection with a Nov. 16, 2003, assault case lodged by Saburo Stewart, 43.

Lizama issued the warrants after the police released the results of its investigation on the case. The officers immediately served the warrants to the suspects. All three were brought to the Adult Correctional facility in Susupe where they were booked and detained pending bail hearing.

The investigation report showed that the police department received a call for assistance around 1:28am of Nov. 16, 2003, due to a disturbance in the house of Stewart in Kagman III area. Medics were also dispatched due to injuries sustained by the victim.

According to the report, the victim and two of the three suspects were involved in a fight outside the victim's house. During the squabble, the suspects used rocks, a machete, and a baseball bat to allegedly attack the victim, causing serious injuries.

Stewart reportedly sustained lacerations on the back, legs, and arms, as well as other cuts and bruises on his body.

After the investigation, probers determined the culpability of the three suspects and asked that arrest warrants be issued against them.

The suspects are now facing disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with dangerous weapons, and criminal mischief charges.

Taiwanese boat seized off New Caledonia

A Taiwanese fishing boat has been intercepted south of New Caledonia for fishing illegally.

The French high commission in the New Caledonia capitol of Noumea says the ship had been spotted by a French surveillance aircraft and an inspection showed it carried dozens of tons of fresh and frozen fish.

The interception comes just days after the captain of another Taiwanese fishing boat was jailed for six months and fined almost US\$200,000 for fishing illegally. (RNZI/PIR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Saipan Southern High School students gather around Gov. Juan N. Babauta during the chief executive's recent visit at the campus, in line with the administration's education program. Babauta has been putting emphasis on public education as an important tool in the eventual recovery of the local economy.

MPLA board in limbo due to lack of quorum

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The lack of a quorum on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Public Lands Authority is stymieing efforts to move ahead on critical projects, including 36 new offers for land compensation that require the board's approval.

Only two members remain on the Board—chairperson, Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chairman Manny Villagomez—following the resignation of a member and term expiration of another.

Member Pedro M. Atalig resigned from the board effective Jan. 1, 2004, while member

Pedro Igitol's term expired on Dec. 31, 2003.

The board is composed of five seats, with one representative each from Tinian and Rota and three from Saipan. The CNMI Constitution also provides that one of the directors should be of Carolinian descent, while another should represent women.

At the moment, Demapan-Castro represents Saipan and the women's sector, while Villagomez represents Tinian. This means nobody is representing Rota, the Carolinians, and two seats for Saipan.

This, even as the MPLA has already readied 36 new offers for land compensation that re-

quire the board's approval.

"We have to get the board's approval before we can make the offer but the board can't possibly meet right now for lack of quorum," said MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider.

The board normally holds a regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Hofschneider said that some names have been floated for appointment by the governor to the board. He declined to identify them.

Meantime, he said that 38 landowners have accepted the MPLA's initial offers and are like likely to get their compensation within the month.

"Once Finance puts the

money in MPLA's special account, we can start cutting checks," he said.

Hofschneider said that MPLA is offering "just and fair" compensation to landowners.

The MPLA board approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation last month. This came soon after the CNMI government floated a \$40-million bond, with the proceeds to be used primarily to settle the longstanding land claims by individuals against the government. The first batch of claims included acquisition of rights-of-way.

The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way,

then ponding basins, and later wetlands and other claims.

The payment to landowners is based on the valuation at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

Of the \$40-million bond, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation, as \$11 million has been allotted to fund a pending prison project. The bond's Hawaii-based underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million from the total amount for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

cars unlimited
pls. pick up neg

Good Housekeeping

Nails for a carpenter

By JEANNE MARIE LASKAS
THE WASHINGTON POST

This all started a week ago. I called Dan, my contractor, to ask him a routine question about window casing options. He wasn't home, so I left a message.

Now, Dan isn't just any old contractor. Dan is a best-kept-secret master-carpenter/dream-contractor. He is a lone angel walking amid the darkness of contractors who promise and leave, promise and leave, never call, leave you with sewage gas leaking into your attic. He is the type you watch with utter amazement as he commits all of his energy and all of his devotion to the perfect patio door installation, and you think: I am never letting go of this man.

This happened last summer as Dan went about transforming my spider hole of a kitchen into a sparkling, sun-drenched food-prep heaven. "I will never let you go," I said to him, bribing him with steaks and drawings my girls made of "Uncle Dan." I asked him to

please take on the larger job of converting our confusing old farmhouse into one that at least makes a tiny bit of logical sense. To wit: one front door instead of five. He said he would. He spent several days just staring at my house. Staring and studying and trying to figure out what the heck happened over the past century as farmer after farmer added a porch, enclosed it, added a porch, enclosed it, as the house grew ever westward.

"This house," Dan would say. "This house!" But he never gave up. He began a master plan and suggested we divide the work into smaller projects that he could do over the next few years. He said he would "put me on the schedule."

The schedule? "I am a jealous woman," I said to him, explaining that I didn't want to be on a schedule. I wanted him all to myself.

"I know," he said. "I know." I learned of the other women. I learned of a previous customer who had recently moved away, and who now was prepared to

import Dan over two state lines. I learned of her friend, who had lured Dan with a two-story addition project.

"My house needs you more than their houses need you!" I pleaded.

"I know," he said. "I know." But he had committed to them. And he assured me he was committing to me. He said he was nothing if not a loyal man. And then he was gone, returning sporadically over these past months to go over plans. Sometimes Dan would bring along his kids, who like to play here, and his wife, Jennifer, a kind and strong soul. On my birthday last fall, my husband surprised me with the gift of Jennifer, who works as a manicurist: She sat under our maple tree and did my nails and my girls' nails, never once complaining as my 4-year-old requested a drawing on each fingernail, ending with a unicorn-above-rainbow on her left pinky.

This is probably not your average contractor-customer relationship. No, this has evolved into something far more elaborate.

So naturally I was surprised last week when Dan never returned my message. I called again. Jennifer answered. "Oh, you didn't hear," she said, with exhaustion in her voice. My heart sank. She told me Dan was on a roof, slipped on some ice, got a good sliding start, then sailed 17 feet down onto a slab of cement. He broke both elbows, a wrist, maybe a shoulder, his nose, who knows what else. "I'm so ... sorry," I said. "How can I help?"

"Win the lottery?" she said. "He needs a lot of surgeries."

He's self-employed. Like all those Americans you hear politicians debate about, he has no health insurance. He'll be out of work, and in and out of hospitals, for months. How does a family absorb such a blow? "I'm going to work really hard," Jennifer said, of the manicure business she runs out of her home. "I'm going to ... increase my client base."

Dan called me the day he got out of the hospital. His broken nose made his voice unrecognizable. "I'm sorry

I didn't call you back till now," he said, ridiculously.

"Look, I want to help," I said.

"I'm going to get better," he said. "Just believe in me. That's the most help."

That was too simple. I hung up, wondered what on earth I could do. I thought about getting a manicure, maybe a French manicure, or something really elaborate. When there is an important person in your life who is suddenly in need, you'll do anything to help, wondering how come everything you think of seems so puny.

A day later I got an e-mail. A woman who said she lives two states away. The other woman! She had tracked me down. And a few of the other women, too. "We're starting a fund," she wrote, asking me to participate. "Of course!" I said, got out my checkbook, and all day I walked around thinking about the way loyalty begets loyalty.

Tomorrow I'm taking my girls over, and anyone else I can enlist. We'll get manicures and pedicures, and buy gift certificates for friends.



Fun with faucets: Look Ma, no hands

By JURA KONCIUS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Hands-free faucets, a staple of restrooms in airports, movie theaters and other public places, are now trickling into the domestic market, particularly in powder rooms and children's bathrooms.

"Since the 1970s, these faucets have been used in commercial locations because of hygiene and ease of use," says Melissa Birdsong, director of trend

forecasting and design for Lowe's home improvement stores. "As people have become comfortable with the use of hands-free technology, they started asking for it for their homes."

Although hands-free faucets such as the e-Flow line from Delta must be special-ordered at Lowe's and sell for about \$250 and up, Birdsong says, sales are on the rise. Hands-free models have caught on not only because universal design is becoming more popular, but also because manufactur-

ers have improved the installation technology. Consumers can pre-set water temperatures (including a non-scalding feature) and stylish new models are more suitable for a family bathroom than a gas station restroom.

"Now these things have a cool factor," says Birdsong. "I think they're going to become very popular as the styling, ease of use and the price reach a point of acceptability."

What about those automatic toilets? She says no rush to hands-free flush.

The latest portable desk set

By JURA KONCIUS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Between cell phones, beepers and laptops, people seem to be taking their office wherever they go. A cool metal Fold-Away Desk by Russell+Hazel is equally portable. Or it can be bolted to the wall to keep supplies handy in a home office, kitchen or wherever you set up shop—open if you want to see it all, closed when you want to put work out of mind. The 15-by-20-inch industrial gray metal surface is magnetic so it can serve as a memo board when it's closed.

Christine Plantan, founder of the stylish Minneapolis office supply company Russell+Hazel, says she

first spotted an old version of the desk at an office supply surplus store. Turns out that model has been manufactured for years for use in factories to organize time cards next to time clocks and phones.

"We ordered some and hung them on walls all over our offices," says Plantan. "We discovered it's a great place to put a laptop, especially in apartments with no room for large desks." Plantan is planning to come out soon with Fold-Aways in different colors; wouldn't one look fab in pink?

Available at www.russellandhazel.com for \$135, the desk comes equipped with cool supplies like polka dot Post-it Notes, correspondence cards, colorful magnets and pencils (888-254-5837).



Business



World



Across the Globe

Security Council sets sanctions deadline

By EDITH M. LEDERER
AP WRITER

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Security Council set a March 31 deadline Friday for nearly 100 countries to report on their enforcement of sanctions against al-Qaida and the Taliban—or be publicly named and shamed.

A resolution adopted unanimously gives the committee monitoring sanctions new powers to assess what states are doing to implement the asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo against the two groups and terror leader Osama bin Laden.

The council has been concerned that nearly 100 of the 191 U.N. member states have failed to submit reports on their actions to enforce sanctions.

The resolution sets a March 31 deadline for all countries that have not submitted reports to do so, or to explain

in writing their reasons for not responding. It asks the sanctions committee to give the council a list of countries that don't comply by that date.

Chile's U.N. Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, the committee chairman, told reporters after the vote that he will publicly identify countries that don't submit a report and say whether it's a lack of political will, because of technical problems, or for some other reason.

He said earlier this month that identifying the countries not complying would be more than a matter of "naming and shaming." The council must also close loopholes, adopt tougher measures, and stress to countries that enforcing sanctions is mandatory, he said.

"I think there's a strong message to countries to comply," said Munoz, who is also this month's Security Council president.

The resolution reiterates "the urgency for all states to comply with their existing obligations" to implement sanctions and to ensure that their domestic laws and administrative measures allow assets to be frozen, travel to be banned, and arms shipments to be halted.

It calls on states "to move vigorously and decisively to cut the flows of funds and other financial assets and economic resources to individuals and entities associated with the al-Qaida organization, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban."

This should be done by implementing internationally accepted standards for combating the financing of terrorism, including preventing the abuse of non-profit organizations, it said.

The Security Council shifted sanctions from the government of

Afghanistan to bin Laden, al-Qaida and remnants of the Taliban in January 2002, after a U.S.-led force ousted the Taliban.

U.N. sanctions require all nations to impose a travel ban and an arms embargo and freeze the assets of individuals and groups on a list issued by the sanctions committee.

While 4,000 individuals linked to al-Qaida and the Taliban have been detained in over 102 countries, the U.N. list of individuals and entities subject to sanctions has just 398 names.

The resolution urges all states to provide names for the list.

U.S. deputy ambassador James Cunningham said the resolution supports Munoz' efforts to improve the enforcement of sanctions.

"The original resolution set up a good set of measures," he said. "We

want to see if we can improve how those are implemented, and we'll then look whether there are further steps that we or others can propose to the council to strengthen the (sanctions) regime as a whole."

To assist the sanctions committee, the resolution establishes a New York-based monitoring team for 18 months. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is asked to consult with the committee and appoint eight members to the team with expertise ranging from financing terrorism to arms embargoes and the use of couriers and alternative remittance systems.

The resolution calls for the team to deliver its first report to the committee on implementation of sanctions by the 191 U.N. member states by July 31, its second by Dec. 15, 2005 and its third by June 30, 2005.

Audit finds billions in China misused

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Audits aimed at ferreting out corruption in China uncovered \$8 billion in misused or embezzled funds and widespread irregularities that produced "serious losses" of state assets, the government said Friday.

Auditors investigated 130,000 state businesses and offices last year as part of the communist leadership's campaign against the pervasive graft that has soured public faith in the government.

Li Jinhua, minister of the State Auditing Administration, told officials attending a national conference Friday that government auditors found larger-

than-reported losses in the accounts of the State Power Corp., the former national power monopoly that was dismantled last year.

Irregularities at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China - one of the country's biggest state-owned banks—included housing and auto loans granted to organizations or individuals using false documents and excessive lending to local governments, Li said in an account posted on the audit office's Web site.

The bank suffered "serious losses" from illegal loans granted by staff and related companies, it said without giving figures. The report also cited a "big

batch" of major economic crimes but did not elaborate.

Li has long criticized officials for diverting government subsidies and spending lavishly on offices, private villas and stock speculation, among other abuses.

As a result of the audits, \$2.9 billion of the \$8 billion in misused funds were returned to the government, and the cases of 749 officials were referred to prosecutors for criminal investigations, the audit office said.

In recent months, thousands of Chinese officials and managers of state companies have been punished in a renewed effort to root out rampant abuse of power.

Envoy hopeful about N. Korea talks

BEIJING (AP)—A top U.S. diplomat praised China on Friday for its efforts to reconvene negotiations about North Korea's nuclear program, expressing hope that a new round of six-party talks to resolve the dispute could be held without much further delay.

But after a day of meeting with Chinese leaders, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage wouldn't cite a potential date for the talks, saying only that Washington and Beijing expect they would be "soon."

The decision on when talks would be resumed "seems to lie in Pyongyang rather than Beijing," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday, referring to the North Korean government.

"We are working with our partners in these talks to try to prepare another round," Boucher said. But "sitting down at the table again requires the consent of Pyongyang."

The first round ended in August without a settlement or a date to meet

again. The talks involve the United States, China, Japan, Russia and the two Koreas.

An Australian government delegation was on its way to North Korea on Friday to persuade Pyongyang to agree to a second round, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said. Australia, a close U.S. ally, has diplomatic links with North Korea.

"A constructive, diplomatic solution to North Korea's nuclear crisis, which escalated just over a year ago, is vital for the security of our region and stability in North Asia and among our allies and top trading partners," said Downer, who was leading the delegation, which will be in Pyongyang until Tuesday.

The nuclear dispute flared in October 2002 when U.S. officials accused North Korea of running the uranium program in violation of a 1994 deal requiring the North to freeze its nuclear facilities. But North Korea has since denied ever having a uranium program.

Official: Plane crashes off Nigeria coast

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A 25- to 30-seat passenger plane plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, on Friday, an airport official and witnesses said.

There was no sign of any survivors, victims or wreckage. It was unclear how many people were aboard the aircraft.

Air traffic control was trying to determine the origin of the plane, which disappeared beneath the waves, the official at Lagos international airport said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The plane went down along a

busy east-west commercial West African flight path that is also used by multinational oil companies to fly workers to and from facilities in Nigeria's oil delta. No airline reported any planes missing.

Police called for divers to search the seas for survivors, but those plans collapsed because for lack of diving equipment. Fishermen offered to help but later refused when they were told they would not be paid.

A witness, security supervisor Kelvin Ikpeme, said he saw a white,

yellow and blue twin-engine plane "shaking" and wobbling in the sky shortly before the crash.

"I rushed down here and saw smoke. Only the nose was still above the water," Ikpeme said.

The craft soon vanished off Lekki, a neighborhood on the eastern edge of Lagos, Ikpeme and other witnesses said.

A Lagos state official, Leke Pitan, said time had run out to find survivors.

"We're no longer thinking about a rescue. Now we're thinking about a recovery operation," Pitan said.

Bystanders run away as a police helicopter tries to land on a beach, near where a small plane crashed into the ocean, in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday Jan. 30, 2004.

AP



Life & Style

Oscar insider: Creating stages

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

It's three weeks before the Academy Awards, and the celebrity presenters are hidden under a white sheet.

At least, their names are.

Talent coordinator Danette Herman guards the identities of the stars she has recruited for the Feb. 29 ceremony by draping a cloth over her board of names, like its a forgotten piece of furniture.

The Oscar folks like to leak their talent lineup a little at a time: Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, Will Smith and Nicole Kidman are among the few names that have escaped from the shroud so far this year.

Across town in an industrial warehouse, seven gigantic Oscar statues are looking a little pale.

Veteran Oscar production designer Roy Christopher has commissioned the gargantuan Oscars for this year's set, which will go through about 20 changes during the telecast. The half-finished statues await their golden glow like ailing giants: ashen-hued and resting on their backs.

Only one of the Oscars stands upright, yet it leans a little. Eventually all will lean—but on purpose.

While Christopher provides the Academy Awards with a big, bold and glitzy stage, Herman works to find big, bold and glitzy people to walk onto it.

Since the Oscar show is watched by tens of millions worldwide, the delicate part of Herman's job is not

getting the stars to say "Yes"—it's telling celebrity volunteers "No."

"Yes, we do say no to a lot of people ... a lot of people who are very worthy to be on the show," she said, sitting at her desk in a makeshift office at Revolution Studios in Santa Monica, the home base of Oscar telecast producer Joe Roth.

Stars receive no fee for being presenters, and there's no bargaining. Instead, Herman gives most stars a gentle take-it-or-leave-it pitch, sweetening the deal with a gift basket packed with thousands of dollars worth of treats like perfume, sunglasses and designer clothes.

So just because you show up to present the sound-mixing prize this year doesn't mean she'll offer you the chance to hand out the best picture next year.

"That's the big, big star. It's a very prestigious award and you have to think in those terms," she said.

Herman has worked with the academy for about 30 years, and one of her closest calls was when Charlton Heston got stuck in traffic and hadn't arrived at the theater by showtime. The producer told her to ask Clint Eastwood to fill in, but he was toward the front of the audience and she had to get to his seat without appearing on camera.

"I was crawling up the aisle and Clint Eastwood is sitting there, so I grabbed at his tuxedo leg. He looked down like, 'Who is this woman?'"

There was a typical Hollywood ending: Heston showed up at the last minute.

For the stars who make the cut—and make it through L.A. traffic—Christo-



AP
Erma Yazzie sands down one of seven gigantic Oscar statues being built at a Los Angeles warehouse Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004. The gargantuan statues will be part of the set design which veteran production designer Roy Christopher has commissioned.

pher likes to tailor the stage for their grand entrances.

"There are stairways and drapes and columns that come in," he said. "For the fabulous ladies we pay particular attention, because everybody wants to see what they're wearing and we want to show them in a beautiful way."

This year's set features a bit of trickery called forced-perspective to make the stage look deeper and more expansive. The floor and walls are wider at the front and grow sharply narrow at the back and tops, making them look longer or taller than they really are.

That's why the seven huge Oscar statues have to tilt—to fit the illusion.

This year's stage has a starry-sky background, floating platforms on either side for the presenters, ceiling-high frosted glass marked with silhouettes of huge Oscars and hovering decks stacked with the oversized statues.

"Last year was the 75th anniversary so we really explored the history of the Oscars, the art deco look of the '30s and '40s," Christopher said. "This year we're taking a more sophisticated, contemporary, sleeker approach."

As he talks, sculptor Beth Schmidt begins to layer one of the prone gray statues with clear shellac and whisper-thin leaves of aluminum. Once coated, the silvery statue will be painted with a clear finish that is tinted yellow, giving the figure a transparent sheen that is prettier beneath the lights than simple gold paint.

Soon the golden guys will be trucked 10 miles to the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, ready for their close-ups.

Jackson's presence to be felt at Grammys

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Even without appearing at the Grammys Sunday night, Janet Jackson's presence will be inescapable.

The singer was supposed to have presented a special award for Luther Vandross, but pulled out amid the furor following her Super Bowl performance.

Also avoiding the show will be Jackson's good friend, rapper and music producer Jermaine Dupri, who announced Friday he was resigning as president of the Recording Academy's Atlanta chapter.

"I didn't want to be a part of something that's not treating people in the

right light," Dupri said. "I feel like what's going on with Janet is unfair."

Jackson's halftime partner, Justin Timberlake—who tore off the piece of clothing that exposed her right breast—will be there, however. He's up for five Grammys, including album of the year, and is scheduled to perform.

But many expect that Jackson's absence will be felt more than her presence would have been, and that her stunt will overshadow the awards themselves. (Fellow R&B acts Beyonce Knowles and Pharrell Williams, and rap stars Jay-Z and OutKast, lead the nominations with six each.)

"All night it will remind Grammy viewers, who are an antiestablishment lot, that this is not really their party," said

Tom O'Neil, author of "The Grammys" who runs the awards handicapping Web site Goldderby.com.

"When the Grammys are at their hippest and best, they reward artists for daring to be social rebels. Now it's outrageous for the Grammys to punish Janet Jackson for performing that same role on someone else's stage. ... This just proves that the Grammys are really still the Grannies."

Spokesmen for the awards ceremony and for the Recording Academy didn't return phone calls seeking comment Friday.

Blender magazine Editor Craig Marks pointed out that the Grammy ceremony is a conservative affair under normal circumstances. Now, CBS is instituting a five-minute delay to allow

enough time to edit out any potentially offensive moments during the show at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

"I would imagine that this would be the most staid, surprise-free, least-lewd Grammys of all time," Marks said by phone Friday from Los Angeles. "The Grammy producers, the network, the labels, the managers and the artists, too, probably realize that some kind of extra crotch grab or cuss word would not be beneficial to their careers."

And what can we expect from Timberlake?

"I think he would be smart to ignore it," Marks said. "I don't think he would be smart to apologize. He already did it, it's enough."

Miss America may ditch talent routines

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Jittery baton twirlers and sequin-clad tap dancers might be getting the hook.

Fed up with declining ratings, ABC is shortening the annual Miss America telecast—from three hours to two—and could end its talent competition.

Miss America officials and pageant fans want to keep it, saying the amateur routines distinguish Miss America from other beauty pageants.

ABC officials weren't talking Friday, and acting pageant CEO Art McMaster said no decision had been made.

"In the initial sit down, ABC made a comment saying 'By the way, we notice the ratings have dropped on the talent side,'" said McMaster. "They want to change how it's shown on television."

Introduced in 1935, the two-minute routines have historically defined the Miss America experience.

But to viewers, they're a major turnoff.

For years, the 10 semifinalists got to perform their routines on the stage during the annual telecast. In 1999, the pageant cut the number in half, trying to stem viewership losses that occur during the talent routines.

In pageant circles, the idea of eliminating talent acts is about as welcome as an off-key Steinway.

"It would be a crime," said Bo Mock,

director of the Miss Houston Scholarship Pageant, a Miss America local. "It's always been what sets us apart."

ABC, which saw a record-low 10.3 million tune in for the crowning of Miss Florida Ericka Dunlap last fall, is negotiating a new deal with the Miss America Organization. Network spokeswoman Cathy Rehl had no immediate comment on ABC's plans for this year's pageant when reached Friday.

Jamaica marks Bob Marley's 59th birthday

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Swaying to an African drumbeat, dozens of dreadlocked Rastafarians chanted and puffed on long marijuana joints Friday to mark the 59th birthday of reggae legend Bob Marley.

Radio stations filled the airwaves with Marley tunes, reggae artists planned tribute concerts and tourists came out in droves to honor the late singer, who died of cancer in 1981 at age 36.

"Jamaicans ought to be proud ... because we're celebrating a man who went from humble beginnings to have his work recognized all over the world," radio host Tony Lange said.

Born Feb. 6, 1945, in rural St. Ann parish, Marley rose from the gritty shantytowns of Kingston to international stardom and remains one of Jamaica's most beloved sons. His lyrics promoting "one love" and social revolution made him an icon in developing countries worldwide.

"Bob Marley was a prophet. The things that he sang about are still happening today," said 37-year-old fan Christopher Maxwell, noting the struggle for unity in some African nations, a common theme in Marley's music.

Marley's lyrics were laden with references to his Rastafarian religion, which advocates the ritual use of marijuana, respect for nature and eating only unprocessed foods.

Kidman dismisses breast cancer rumors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicole Kidman launched a pre-emptive strike Friday at what she said were unfounded tabloid rumors that she has breast cancer.

Representatives of the "Cold Mountain" actress said they wanted to set the record straight after receiving numerous questions from reporters after some of Kidman's health records were obtained without authorization.

The Oscar winner said she's in perfect health.

"Unfortunately, due to an invasion of my medical privacy, I've received a number of calls from the press asking about a visit to the hospital in Los Angeles in January," Kidman said in a statement released exclusively to The Associated Press. "I went in for a routine checkup, and the doctors discovered an area they thought needed further testing. The results of those tests were negative and I was given an 'all clear.'"

"Needless to say, my family

and I are enormously relieved and thankful," she added. "As always, I am committed to raising funds and awareness for women's health issues, and I'd like to emphasize the importance for all women to have regular mammograms and checkups."

Coincidentally, Kidman is set to be honored on March 1 by the Women's Cancer Research Fund, in a ceremony designed to raise money for women's cancer research. She is being recognized in part for her work as the board chair for the organization Women's Health Fund at UCLA.

Meanwhile, the actress has appeared healthy at various awards ceremonies in recent weeks and her upcoming work schedule does not suggest someone who is ailing.

In March, Kidman begins filming the United Nations thriller "The Interpreter," followed by a comedic role as the housewife enchantress in a remake of TV's "Bewitched."



Actress Nicole Kidman, shown in this Jan. 25, 2004, file photo in Beverly Hills, Calif., has launched a pre-emptive strike Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, at what she said were unfounded tabloid rumors that she has breast cancer.

AP

Kiley Dean to sing Pro Bowl anthem

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiley Dean will sing the national anthem at the Pro Bowl, replacing JC Chasez of 'N Sync, who pulled out in a dispute with the NFL.

The 21-year-old R&B singer will perform before the annual all-star game Sunday in Honolulu, Pro Bowl spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The NFL had asked Chasez to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" after removing him from the halftime show out of concern that some of his lyrics may be too suggestive.

The league said it was being extra cautious following the Super Bowl halftime show in which Chasez's bandmate, Justin Timberlake, ripped off a piece of Janet Jackson's top and exposed her right breast.

Chasez responded angrily on Thursday: "That's not the America I love. Nor is this the NFL I love. I'll sing the national anthem anytime, anywhere, but not for this NFL."

Dean, a former backup singer for Britney Spears, went to the same high school as another 'N Sync member, Joey Fatone. Hip-hop producer Timbaland's label is releasing her debut album, which will feature the single "Make Me a Song."

Barrymore receives UN Peace pin

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Drew Barrymore got pinned for the first time—but not by a boyfriend.

The actress received a Dove of Peace pin Thursday as a new member of "Artists for the U.N.," an initiative of Global Vision for Peace founded at the start of the Iraq war last year by Hollywood

writer HeathCliff Rothman and designer Xorin Balbes.

"We believe that bringing together artists in a collective voice to support the U.N., and to support the missions of the U.N. globally, is very, very powerful," Rothman said.

At last year's Academy Awards, nearly three dozen film

artists wore the Dove of Peace pin—inspired by Pablo Picasso and created by Henry Dunay—including Meryl Streep, Adrian Brody, Martin Scorsese, Daniel Day-Lewis and Susan Sarandon.

Gillian Sorensen, a former U.N. assistant secretary-general who's now senior adviser to the United Nations Foundation, said 30 or 40 artists at this year's Oscars are expected to wear the pin, not only as a symbol of the organization but as part of its effort "to salute and support the United Nations."

When Barrymore received her Dove of Peace, she gushed, "This is the first time I've ever been pinned—I'm serious."

The 28-year-old "Charlie's Angels" star added, "We wake up every morning thinking, like, what more can we do in this world to make it a better, happier, more peaceful and beautiful place?"

"I always say—this is so silly—but I wish there were, like, little boxes at every corner that you could list the thing that speaks to you, like: I love the environment, I want to protect it! I care about animals! I care about the AIDS epidemic!" she said.



AP

Actress Drew Barrymore receives a Dove of Peace pin at a news conference after she became the first "Friend of the U.N.," at the United Nations on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004.

NBC to Donald Trump: You're not fired

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Donald Trump can look forward to job security with NBC. "The Apprentice," the reality series featuring business mogul Trump and contestants vying to work for him, has been renewed for a second season.

"We always knew that 'The Apprentice' was an original and smart alternative to other reality shows,"

Trump said in a statement Friday. "I can't wait to get back in the boardroom for season two."

Trump, also serving as executive producer with Mark Burnett ("Survivor"), has helped give NBC a "red-hot" hit, said NBC Entertainment president Jeff Zucker.

"The Apprentice," which airs on Thursday, was the No. 8 show last week and drew nearly

19 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Zucker predicted that "The Apprentice" will "have an appointment on NBC for many years to come."

Sixteen new contestants will be chosen for the competition to film in and around Manhattan, NBC said. A fall premiere is likely but an airdate was not announced.

Girl searches for way to stop best friend from smoking pot

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Bette," is one of the nicest, smartest teens you'll ever meet. I enjoy her company, we get along great, and we have a lot in common. She's also my role model, since I'm two years younger than she is. (I skipped a couple of grades.)

Recently, Bette has been smoking weed and encouraging me to try it. I am very against smoking. I'm afraid Bette might be doing the wrong thing. She says it's OK because she does it only a little bit.

How can I persuade her to stop? Should I even try? Will I be ruining a great friendship?



Dear Abby

NEEDS HELP IN GEORGIA

DEAR NEEDS HELP: You appear to be more mature than your older friend. Not only is pot smoking generally unhealthy, it impairs your judgment. Marijuana can affect memory and the choices smokers make while under the influence. It is also illegal, with all that implies.

It is important that you understand that people change as they mature—or fail to mature. If Bette continues on this path, she may eventually begin spending more time with other kids who smoke pot. It could affect her grades and her participation in sports and other interests. You may have less and less in common. So start developing friendships with other students whose interests and goals are similar to yours and continue moving forward on your own wholesome path.

By all means, try to persuade Bette to stop; as her friend, it is the right thing to do. But she is ultimately responsible for her own behavior—or misbehavior—and you have to protect your own future.

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from a 13-year-old girl whose father is deployed in the Middle East. She was worried about her mother's depression. You wisely suggested that the daughter seek assistance from a trusted adult who knows her mother and can encourage her to talk to a doctor. I would like to offer some additional suggestions:

The mother's primary-care manager through her health-care provider is a good starting point for assistance. She can also find out if there is a family advocacy program available at their military base. These programs offer support groups for spouses and children.

This child and her mother are probably eligible for TRI-CARE, the Defense Department's health-care program for military personnel, their families and retirees. TRICARE offers a health services and support contractor to manage the family's health benefits. It offers in-person or telephone counseling and online assistance. The mother can visit www.tricare.osd.mil and request customer service using one of the toll-free numbers.

Americans must do their part to support those who are sacrificing so much in defense of our freedoms.

JUDY BLACK, VICE PRESIDENT, TRIWEST HEALTH CARE ALLIANCE, PHOENIX

DEAR JUDY: Amen to that! And thank you for offering this valuable information to the spouses of our military personnel.

DEAR ABBY: I am 21 years old and have been thin all my life. But for the past year, I have been getting up during the night and eating. Sometimes the next morning I don't even know what I ate the night before!

I have also noticed that I am gaining weight. Please help.

NOCTURNAL EATER

DEAR NOCTURNAL: Discuss this with your doctor. If you're doing this while not fully awake, it may be a symptom of a sleep disorder.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Clarett a question mark to NFL teams

By RUSTY MILLER
AP SPORTS WRITER



COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Now that Maurice Clarett has won his landmark legal challenge to get into the NFL draft, he must prove to scouts and coaches he is worth selecting.

That might be even more difficult than beating the NFL in court.

"My guess is that I don't think he'll be picked in the first two rounds," NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt said Friday. "Now if he comes in and blows people away with the way he catches the ball, the routes he runs, his speed and his conditioning, that might be a different story."

The NFL set a March 1 deadline Friday for high school players and newly eligible underclassmen to apply for the draft.

Clarett, a star running back, hasn't played competitive football for 13 months, since scoring the winning touchdown in the second overtime of Ohio State's national championship victory over Miami in the Fiesta Bowl.

Jack Butler of the BLESTO scouting service said Clarett's value in the draft is unclear because scouts don't know much about him.

"I know he is a good football player. But I don't know much beyond that," he said. "I don't think anybody really knows much about him."

In addition, Clarett is dogged by off-field questions. He was suspended by Ohio State last September for accepting money from a family friend and then lying about it to NCAA investigators.

"I wouldn't take him before the third round, if I was a GM," said Jim Sabo of Ourlads' Scouting Service. "He's obviously got a lot of talent and looks like he would be a very high first-round draft pick, but with all that has happened to him there's a lot of red flags there."

Clarett, 20, set Ohio State freshman records with 1,237 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2002. Still, he missed three games and parts of two others due to knee surgery and a shoulder injury. He also was ham-



Flanked by his attorneys Alan Milstein, left, and Dan Allanoff, Ohio State sensation Maurice Clarett smiles at a news conference, Thursday Feb. 5, 2004, in New York.

pered by injuries throughout his high school career, even though he was selected as USA Today's national offensive player of the year as a senior.

He rushed for more than 100 yards seven times as a Buckeye, but also had three fumbles against Northwestern and managed just 56 yards on 23 carries

against Miami.

"People will look at the tapes of his freshman year and they'll see the great plays he made ... but they'll also see some plays

that were not that exceptional," said Brandt, one of the architects of the dominant Dallas Cowboys teams of the 1970s and 1980s. "The question is: Is the good going to outweigh the bad?"

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy said it will be hard to project how a player with just one year of college will do in the pros.

"I'm sure glad that's not my job ... but it's going to be hard, no question about it," he said of those scouting Clarett.

St. Louis Rams safety Aeneas Williams compares Clarett's draft status with that of former Miami tailback Willis McGahee, who sustained extensive knee damage on a hit late in that same Fiesta Bowl against Ohio State.

"It might be a situation like when Willis McGahee came in last year, where one team will take a chance on him," Williams said. "I imagine people will give him (Clarett) the benefit of the doubt because he showed when he did play that he had the skills to be a good running back."

Roddick, Ginepri lead US past Austria

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP)—With a flick of his elastic right arm, Andy Roddick hit a record-breaking 150 mph serve to set the tone for his lopsided Davis Cup victory.

Teammate Robby Ginepri had to work much harder for his own precedent-setting win.

Together, Roddick and Ginepri gave the United States a 2-0 lead over Austria on Friday in their best-of-five first-round Davis Cup series.

Ginepri came all the way back to beat Jurgen Melzer 6-7 (6), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, becoming the first U.S. rookie in the 105-year history of the Davis Cup to win a match after dropping the first two sets.

In the second match, U.S. Open champion Roddick set a new standard for serving speed and overwhelmed Stefan Koubek 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in 1 1/2 hours—half the time Ginepri needed at the same casino arena used by the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.

The entrances to the arena are about a 30-second walk from the jingle-jangle of falling coins and the other assorted carnival sounds of a gambling hall.

Hoping to end the U.S. Davis Cup drought—the country's last title came in 1995—captain Patrick McEnroe took a chance and went with Ginepri, 21, who turned pro in 2001. McEnroe bypassed James Blake, Mardy Fish and Taylor Dent, who have a combined 10-7 career record in Davis Cup matches.

The odds didn't look good for



Robby Ginepri of the United States celebrates following his 6-7 (6), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Jurgen Melzer of Austria in a Davis Cup match Friday, Feb. 6, 2004, in Uncasville, Conn.

Ginepri after two sets against Melzer. Perhaps realizing his predicament couldn't get much worse, Ginepri began swinging more freely. He also eventually solved Melzer's left-handed serve, picking up

a break in the first game of each of the last three sets.

"I didn't come up with the goods in the first two sets, but I hung in there and took it," Ginepri said. "Playing for the country for the first time—there's no other

experience out there that teaches you how to deal with that."

The Americans can clinch victory and advance to a quarterfinal meeting against defending champion Australia or Sweden by winning Saturday's doubles match.

Elsewhere in the first round, the Netherlands led Canada 2-0, and Argentina took a 2-0 lead over Morocco. Tied at 1-1 were: Sweden-Australia, Switzerland-Romania, Croatia-France, Spain-Czech Republic and Russia-Belarus.

Roddick improved to 9-3 in his nascent Davis Cup career thanks in large part to his top asset: a serve that Koubek never caught up to. Roddick only faced two break points, saving both, and finished with 19 aces.

"My serve was my wild card today. It got me out of trouble," said Roddick, who recently dropped from No. 1 to No. 3 in the rankings.

Twice, he dialed up the court-side speed meter to 150 mph; Roddick and Greg Rusedski shared the old mark of 149 mph.

"The first couple of games, I glanced at the radar. That's sort of a gauge for me," Roddick said. "When I opened up with a buck-fifty, I thought, 'That's out of the ordinary.'"

By the end of the third set, Roddick was still hitting serves above 140 mph. He showed his versatility, too, ending the match by spinning in a 98 mph offering that completely fooled Koubek. He returned the ball meekly, and Roddick tapped in a volley winner to improve to 4-0 against Koubek.

Rocket, Pettitte set to get back on field



HOUSTON (AP)—As much as Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte have enjoyed being toasts of the town, they're certainly ready to get back on the field.

"This is the last banquet thank goodness," Pettitte said, quickly adding that he felt honored to be named the Houston area major league player of the year Friday at the annual Houston Baseball Dinner. "Let's get to spring training and play. But this has all been great. It's been fun."

Pettitte and Clemens, who won the Allen Russell Distinguished Achievement Award for his lengthy list of career milestones, were set to be honored anyway because of their Houston roots. Adding to the festivities—and helping a record 1,700 tickets get sold—were their decisions this offseason to trade their Yankees pinstripes for the Astros' variety.

The applause for Clemens was very different from the response he drew last month at a similar event in New York, where boos intermingled with cheers.

This time, as at several other dinners and events featuring one or both of the Texas pitchers, it was unanimous.

"This last month and a half has been unbelievable," Clemens said, after the Houston community lobbied for him to join his good friend Pettitte with the Astros.

The Rocket ended a brief retirement this offseason and

signed a one-year deal.

Other winners at the \$50-a-plate dinner were outfielder Richard Hidalgo as last season's most valuable Astro, relief pitcher Brad Lidge as the team's top rookie and former closer Billy Wagner as the club's pitcher of the year.

Wagner, traded to the Philadelphia Phillies after last season, did not attend because his flight from his home state of Virginia was snowed in.

Also, Rice ace Jeff Nie-mann was named preseason college player of the year.

During his address, Clemens joked that Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr. has been pestering him to make sure he's getting in shape, noting McLane might be tougher than Yankees boss George Steinbrenner.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, who attended because the All-Star game will be played in Houston this July, disagreed.

"I'm the only person in the room who knows all 30 of those people," Selig said, referring to the owners. "Let me assure you right now Drayton is not tougher than George."

The record turnout for the dinner came the same day as another record was set. The Astros, who boosted fan interest by signing Pettitte and Clemens, sold out their season opener in 15 minutes Friday morning, when single-game tickets went on sale.

"Now we just have to work on the other 80 games," McLane said.

Hawks win two in a row, beat Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks won consecutive games for the first time this season, getting 23 points from Shareef Abdur-Rahim and 22 from Stephen Jackson in a 100-96 victory over the Boston Celtics on Friday night.

"We hurt ourselves with turnovers but it was a win and a win on the road, so we'll take it," said Abdur-Rahim.

It was the Celtics' sixth straight loss and their fifth in a row under interim head coach John Carroll, who took over on Jan. 27 when Jim O'Brien resigned.

The Hawks held a 15-point lead at halftime but watched it disappear in the fourth quarter. After Jackson hit a 3-pointer with 54 seconds left to give the Hawks a 97-92 lead, Paul Pierce hit four throws to cut the Hawks' lead to 97-96 with 17 seconds remaining.

"Anytime you make them turn the ball over 29 times, you should expect to come away with a win," said Pierce, who had 28 points and 10 rebounds.

Jackson missed the front end of a pair of free throws with 12 seconds remaining, but Ricky Davis had two shots blocked—the first by Theo Ratliff, the second by Abdur-Rahim—as the Hawks escaped.

Pacers 83, Raptors 77

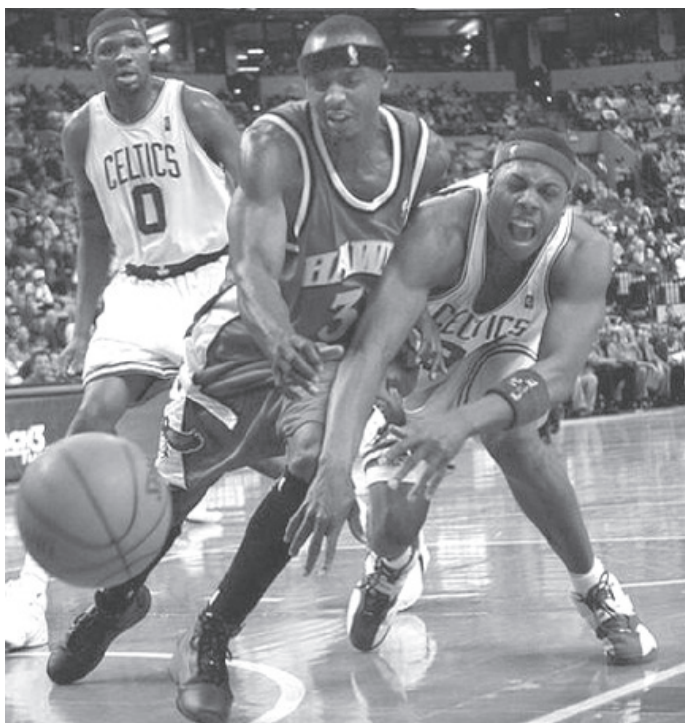
In Toronto, Ron Artest scored 27 points, Jermaine O'Neal added 20 and Al Harrington 19 as the Eastern Conference-leading Indiana Pacers beat Toronto.

Jamaal Tinsley scored five of Indiana's last seven points after Toronto closed within two. O'Neal, who vowed to have a better game after going 6-for-20 from the field in a loss to New York on Tuesday, added 14 rebounds as the Pacers won for the fourth time in five games.

Donyell Marshall had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors.

Wizards 112, Clippers 110

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points and Jerry Stackhouse added 23 as Wash-



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce, right, and Atlanta Hawks' Jason Terry (31) fight for the loose ball which gets away from them as Celtics' Walter McCarty (0) watches from behind during second-half NBA action in Boston, Friday, Feb. 6, 2004.

ington scored 25 of the game's first 28 points to end the Los Angeles Clippers' three-game road winning streak.

Kwame Brown added 22 points and Larry Hughes had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Los Angeles, bidding for its first four-game road winning streak since March, 1982, got 24 points from Quentin Richardson and 22 from Corey Maggette.

Timberwolves 103, Cavaliers 92

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 35 points and 12 rebounds, including a huge fourth quarter as Minnesota beat Cleveland.

Latrell Sprewell added 24 points, seven assists and a hand in LeBron James' face most of the night for Minnesota, which won its 14th straight at home and is an NBA-best 26-6 since Dec. 1.

Jeff McInnis scored 21 points and James added 14 for the Cavaliers, who dropped to 5-3 since acquiring McInnis in a trade with Portland.

Nets 120, Magic 99

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd had 18 points, 13 assists, six rebounds and a 3-pointer that cracked the 100-point mark at the end of third quarter as New Jersey downed Orlando.

The victory was the Nets' seventh straight, and their sixth in a row since Frank replaced Byron Scott less than two weeks ago for the two-time defending Eastern Conference champions.

Grizzlies 105, Bucks 85

In Memphis, Tennessee, Pau Gasol, booed in his last home game, scored 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Memphis beat Milwaukee to tie a franchise record for victories.

The win was the Grizzlies' third straight and matched their 28 victories from last season—the most in franchise history. The Bucks lost their third straight overall and sixth consecutive road game.

Hornets 92, Pistons 81

In New Orleans, Jamal Mashburn scored 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to help New Orleans snap a four-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

After going 4-of-17 from the floor through three quarters, Mashburn hit a 3-pointer to snap a 10-0 Detroit run. He made two more shots and five free throws as New Orleans handed the Pistons their second straight loss.

Rockets 82, Bulls 80

In Houston, Jim Jackson sank a 7-meter (22-foot) jump shot at the final buzzer to give Houston a win over Chicago.

China's Yao Ming led Houston with 22 points, followed by Jackson with 14, Cuttino Mobley with 13 and Steve Francis with 11.

SuperSonics 107, Suns 105

In Phoenix, Ray Allen had 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists before injuring his shoulder late in Seattle's win over Phoenix.

Rashard Lewis, who scored 23 points, took a pass from Luke Ridnour for a layup with two seconds remaining for the game-winner.

Trail Blazers 87, Jazz 73

In Salt Lake City, Zach Randolph had 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead the surging Portland past Utah for the sixth victory in its last seven road games.

Rasheed Wallace scored 16 points and Damon Stoudamire added 14 as all five Portland starters scored in double figures. Portland has now won six of its last seven games overall and is tied with the Jazz for 10th place in the Western Conference.

Warriors 96, Nuggets 87

In Oakland, California, Speedy Claxton scored 17 of his career-high 25 points in the fourth quarter as the short-handed Golden State snapped Denver's three-game winning streak.

Claxton also had six assists and five rebounds in 41 minutes, going 13-of-13 at the free throw line in the final period. Claxton's fourth-quarter points were the most in one period by a Warriors player this season.

Rookie Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points to lead Denver.

Spurs 102, Kings 94

In Sacramento, California, Tim Duncan had 28 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks as San Antonio continued to be one of few teams to give the Kings trouble at home, defeating them at Arco Arena for the third straight time.

Tony Parker kept San An-

tonio in front during the first half, scoring 17 of his 20 points. Duncan took over after half-time, scoring 20 points as the

Spurs gradually built a double-digit lead and held on to hand the Kings their fourth home loss of the season.

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|-------|
| New Jersey | 28 | 20 | .583 | — |
| New York | 23 | 27 | .460 | 6 |
| Boston | 22 | 29 | .431 | 7 1-2 |
| Miami | 21 | 29 | .420 | 8 |
| Philadelphia | 21 | 29 | .420 | 8 |
| Washington | 15 | 33 | .313 | 13 |
| Orlando | 13 | 39 | .250 | 17 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Indiana | 37 | 14 | .725 | — |
| Detroit | 33 | 18 | .647 | 4 |
| New Orleans | 27 | 23 | .540 | 9 1-2 |
| Milwaukee | 26 | 23 | .531 | 10 |
| Toronto | 23 | 25 | .479 | 12 1-2 |
| Cleveland | 19 | 31 | .380 | 17 1-2 |
| Atlanta | 17 | 34 | .333 | 20 |
| Chicago | 14 | 37 | .275 | 23 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Minnesota | 35 | 14 | .714 | — |
| San Antonio | 34 | 18 | .654 | 2 1-2 |
| Dallas | 31 | 18 | .633 | 4 |
| Houston | 28 | 21 | .571 | 7 |
| Memphis | 28 | 21 | .571 | 7 |
| Denver | 29 | 22 | .569 | 7 |
| Utah | 24 | 26 | .480 | 11 1-2 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Sacramento | 34 | 13 | .723 | — |
| L.A. Lakers | 29 | 18 | .617 | 5 |
| Seattle | 24 | 25 | .490 | 11 |
| Portland | 23 | 25 | .479 | 11 1-2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 22 | 26 | .458 | 12 1-2 |
| Golden State | 21 | 27 | .438 | 13 1-2 |
| Phoenix | 18 | 34 | .346 | 18 1-2 |

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EAST

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Bates 80, Colby 73 |
| Bowdoin 77, Tufts 65 |
| Brandeis 82, Emory 72 |
| Clarkson 82, Vassar 64 |
| Colgate 75, Lafayette 66 |
| Cornell 96, Brown 81 |
| John Jay 75, CUNY 58 |
| N.Y. Tech 67, Fredonia St. 59 |
| NYU 71, Case Reserve 70 |
| Oneonta 70, Potsdam 63 |
| Penn 104, Harvard 69 |
| Plattsburgh 78, New Paltz 66 |
| Princeton 61, Dartmouth 45 |
| RPI 65, St. Lawrence 58 |
| Rochester Tech 75, Ithaca 73, OT |
| Skidmore 78, Hamilton 64 |
| St. Peter's 77, Rider 69, OT |
| Union, N.Y. 79, Hobart 72 |
| Utica 81, St. John Fisher 70 |
| Yale 63, Columbia 58 |

SOUTH

| |
|--|
| Brevard 80, Bryan 70 |
| High Point 81, Charleston Southern 78, OT |
| Kentucky Christian 72, Cincinnati Bible 66 |
| Troy St. 85, Georgia St. 69 |

MIDWEST

| |
|--|
| Bemidji St. 96, Winona St. 85 |
| Carroll, Wis. 71, Monmouth, Ill. 65 |
| Cent. Iowa 67, Dubuque 66 |
| Coe 86, Buena Vista 71 |
| Dakota St. 81, S. Dakota Tech 71 |
| Illinois College 85, Beloit 77 |
| Jamestown 103, Mayville St. 73 |
| Lawrence 81, Lake Forest 50 |
| Mary 79, Valley City St. 62 |
| McKendree 108, Lindenwood 92 |
| Minn.-Crookston 94, Concordia, St. P. 85 |
| Minn.-Morris 79, Northland 58 |
| Northwestern, Minn. 75, Martin Luther 69 |
| Rochester 54, Chicago 41 |
| Si Tanka-Huron 83, Black Hills St. 74 |
| Simpson, Iowa 65, Loras 64 |
| St. Norbert 114, Grinnell 113 |
| St. Scholastica 93, Presentation 83 |
| Wartburg 77, Cornell, Iowa 74 |
| Washington, Mo. 98, Carnegie-Mellon 88 |

SOUTHWEST

| |
|--|
| No scores reported from the SOUTHWEST. |
|--|

FAR WEST

| |
|--|
| Colorado College 76, Huntingdon 63 |
| Montana-Western 97, Lewis-Clark St. 88 |
| Westminster, Utah 70, Montana Tech 59 |

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with OF Trot Nixon on a three-year contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Acquired 3B Mike Lamb from the Texas Rangers for RHP Jose Garcia.

CINCINNATI REDS—Voided the minor league contract of RHP Corey Thurman due to a pre-existing medical condition.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Named Corey Busch team consultant.

MONTREAL EXPOS—Named Nick Manno minor league administration coordinator, Jose Alguacil minor league infield coordinator, Charlie Corbell pitching coach for Edmonton of the PCL, Rob Ducey coach and Mark Grater pitching coach for Harrisburg of the Eastern league, Tim Raines manager, Andy Skeels coach and Craig Bjornson pitching coach for Brevard of the Florida State League, Bobby Henley manager, Joel Chimelis and Ricky Bones pitching coach for Savannah of the South Atlantic League, Franklyn Bravo pitching coach for Vermont of the New York-Penn League, and Arturo Defreites manager, Jose Alguacil coach and Tom Keating pitching coach for the Expos of the Gulf Coast League.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with OF Henry Rodriguez on a minor league contract. Named Tom Prince a coach in extended spring training and for Williamsport of the New York-Penn league.

WNBA

PHOENIX MERCURY—Announced the resignation of John Shumate, coach, to become a college scout for the Phoenix Suns.

NFL

CHICAGO BEARS—Named Darryl Drake wide receivers coach and Charlie Coiner assistant special teams coach.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Announced the retirement of DT Keith Hamilton.

COLLEGE

AZUSA PACIFIC—Named Chris Keife women's volleyball coach.

DAVIDSON—Announced the resignation of Kevin Hundley, women's soccer coach.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON—Named Michelle Sprattford women's assistant bowling coach.

HOFSTRA—Named athletic director Harry Royle executive director of athletic development and endowment.

HOPE—Named Becky Schmidt women's volleyball coach.

MINNESOTA—Named Melissa McFerrin women's associate head basketball coach.

MISSOURI—Announced junior G Randy Pulley has been dismissed from the men's basketball team.

NEBRASKA—Named Randy Jordan running backs coach and Bill Busch outside linebackers coach.

UCLA—Named Jorge Salcedo men's soccer coach.

WASHINGTON—Announced the resignation of Dana Richardson, athletics compliance director.

WEST VIRGINIA—Announced OL Tim Brown has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA.

By The Associated Press

Michelle Wie selected to US Curtis Cup team

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP GOLF WRITER

Michelle Wie was among eight players selected Friday to the U.S. Curtis Cup team, making the 14-year-old from Hawaii the youngest player in the 72-year history of the amateur matches for women.

Despite her age, Wie should fit right in on the youngest U.S. team ever.

The oldest player is Sarah Huarte, a 21-year-old senior at Califor-

nia who won the prestigious South Atlantic Ladies Amateur earlier this year. It was the first time no mid-amateurs (25 or older) were included on the U.S. team.

Wie is joined by Paula Creamer and U.S. Women's Amateur runner-up Jane Park, both 17; Duke freshman Britany Lang, 18; Arizona sophomore Erica Blasberg, 19; Duke sophomore Elizabeth Janangelo, 20; and Annie Thurman, a 21-year-old junior at Oklahoma

State who won the '02 Women's Amateur Public Links.

The United States is the defending champion and has a 23-6-3 lead in the biennial matches that date to 1932. The '04 matches will be June 12-13 at Formby Golf Club on the Lancashire coast of England.

The GB&I team will be announced April 19.

U.S. captain Martha Wilkinson Kirouac watched several of these teenagers compete over

the last six months, and said earlier this week that youth would not be a detriment.

"They're not lacking," Kirouac said. "You can't hold age against them."

Wie, a 6-footer with a powerful, fluid swing, has played well beyond her years ever since she qualified for the Women's Amateur Public Links as a 10-year-old.

She won the Public Links last year, making her the youngest winner of a USGA event for adults.

The Week in Sports



Saipan Tennis Association players show off their Taga Tennis Trophies after finally getting them in an impromptu award ceremony last January 31.



Sunday 8-Ball Fun Tournament winner Frank Codog is flanked by third place Norbert Ada, left, and runner-up Senen Pangelinan.



Carolina Panthers supporters Rene Pe, middle, and Jojo Talibong join a female friend during the Super Bowl party at the Pacific Islands Club last Monday.

Jam Attack and Super Bowl XXXVIII

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

New England Patriots fans on Saipan rejoiced, while Lost Boyz and Bootylicious were equally ecstatic during the past week.

Gridiron fans—both of the Patriots and Carolina Panthers variety—jammed Super Bowl parties on island last Monday to watch their favorite football teams duel on giant screens and a surround-sound environment, while drinking their preferred beverages.

Some of the venues on Saipan that hosted exciting Super Bowl parties were the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, Pacific Islands Club, Hafadai Beach Hotel, AJ's Restaurant and Hamilton's restaurant.

The day before, the Saipan Amateur Volleyball Association toasted Lost Boyz and Bootylicious after both teams won the men and women's divisions of the 2004 Jam Attack held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Lost Boyz triumphed over Pacific Islands Club I, while Bootylicious outlasted AIKI in a grueling five-set finale.

In bowling, the Fun and Games team of Ross Zapanta, Ador Dimaano, Roman Mamauag, Raymond Zapanta, Ernie Villarin, Jerry Tan, Rey Perilla, Simon Manacop, and Rene Cabigao took home the championship of the 29th season of the Philippine Bowling Association Saturday Night League.

Last January 31 also saw the Saipan Tennis Association finally award trophies to winners of its 1st Annual Taga Tennis Tournament.



Tony Arriola and his friend hold a brave front after their Panthers lost to the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVIII.



Dave Attao and friends are all smiles after watching Super Bowl XXXVIII at the Hibiscus Hall of The Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach.



Fun and Games topped the Saturday Night League of the Philippine Bowling Association.



Lorna Ogumoro of runner-up team AIKI accepts the trophy from SAVA president Gabriel White.



Nan Intharaluk of Pacific Islands Club I receives his team's runner-up trophy from White.



FINA technical official Dennis Miller joins participants of his clinic for a snapshot at the Azucena Hall of the Dai-Ichi Hotel.



Jam Attack and Super Bowl XXXVIII

New England Patriots fans on Saipan rejoiced, while Lost Boyz and Bootylicious were equally ecstatic during the past week.

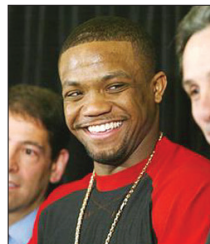
27

Saipan Tribune Sports

Clarett a question mark to NFL teams

Now that Maurice Clarett has won his landmark legal challenge to get into the NFL draft, he must prove to scouts and coaches he is worth selecting.

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28 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Aikawa struts stuff in pre-season

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Former CNMI youth netter and 2003 South Pacific Games veteran Kana Aikawa is definitely hitting her stride playing for the University of Hawaii women's tennis team.

The petite tennis player made a lot of splash in the pre-season, as she finished with a 2-1 record in singles competition and was nominated for the Western Atlantic Conference Player of the Month for December.

The freshman at U.H.'s Hilo campus began her pre-season in San Diego, California with a morale-boosting 6-1, 6-1 victory over Chip Dunbar of Cal State Fullerton.

Although, she lost in the next round to Claudio Argumeda of Long Beach State, 1-6, 0-6, she immediately bounced back; teaming up with Sylvia Jaros to defeat Argumeda and Krystana Ka-

tayama of Long Beach State, 9-8, and advanced to the 32-team main draw.

"It was a learning experience for our younger girls, who were nervous going in," said U.H. head coach Carolyn Katayama on an article from the college's website. "But as their matches progressed they all gained a lot of confidence and can only learn from it. For the first time it was an eye-awakening for them."

During her team's next stop, Aikawa made her home island of Saipan proud once more when she became the only Rainbow Wahine to win a match against top-ranked Stanford University.

Aikawa was the only bright spot in U.H.'s 1-6 loss to No. 2 Stanford when she hacked out an impressive 6-4, 6-4 victory against Jessica Leck.

The win was instrumental in the WAC player of the month nomination, according to her.

In an e-mail sent to the Saipan Tribune, Aikawa said the team is currently on its first road trip of the season, which began last January 27. The schedule would have the Rainbow Wahines face off against teams from Stanford, San Jose State, Santa Clara and University of San Francisco.

Aikawa said that she practiced a lot to get ready for her first season,



soon after she spent the Christmas vacation at his brother's place in California. She also said that she is more excited than ever to finally relive her childhood dream.

"Traveling is fun, we get to stay in nice hotels, and not worry about going to classes, although I had a hard time catching up on all the work I missed," said Aikawa.

She also said that she enjoys the company of her teammates and is learning a lot from her coaches. "Everybody on the team gets along really well and our coach is really nice and caring and our assistant coach Chanon is a fun guy and we like him a lot."

Although, she is having the time of her life playing for the U.H. women's tennis team, Aikawa admits that she misses Saipan a lot and can't wait to see her friends and tennis buddies again.

"I miss my friends a lot. I miss playing with my old tennis partners like coach Jeff [Race], Ranel [Calixterio], Jung Mun [Chung], Todd [Montgomery], and Faheem [Ebrahim]. I also miss the empty beaches and slow lifestyle... beaches here are packed with people and it drives me nuts," she said.

Kana Aikawa, right, with fellow 2003 SPG National tennis team members Peter Sinclair, left, and Jung Mun Chung. Aikawa in action at Victoria Park during the Suva Games, above.

MARK RABAGO/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

